



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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August 13, 2003

In Reply Refer To:
8000(P)
CA-930

EMS TRANSMISSION: 8/13/03
Instruction Memorandum No. CA-2003-058
Expires: 09/30/04

To: All California Field Managers

From: State Director

Subject: Public Road Nominations for the Reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) - **Due Date: 09/05/03**

Attached is Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2003-227, Public Road Nominations for the Reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The purpose of this memorandum is to request the submission, from Field Offices, of proposed public road nominations of candidate roads for the BLM to be eligible to receive funds through the reauthorization of TEA-21.

In fiscal year 2002, Director Kathleen Clarke sent a letter to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) advising that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is now a public roads agency, and that BLM's intent is to participate in the reauthorization of TEA-21 through designation of 8,000 miles of BLM public roads on BLM administered lands. To participate, BLM was required to submit a "Resource Paper" to the FHWA describing the transportation programs and funding requirements. The resource paper stated that BLM would need \$32 million per year for each of the 6 years of the reauthorization to rehabilitate or repair 8,000 miles of roads, bridges, and trails.

To be eligible for funding under the reauthorization of TEA-21, the BLM is required to designate a portion of its administrative roads as public. To become public roads, candidate roads must meet the following criteria:

- The road must be in BLM jurisdiction.
- The road must have full easement rights.
- The road must be open for public use except under certain conditions (see attachment).
- There must be a compelling public need for a road to qualify (see attachment).

- The intended use and management of nominated public roads must be consistent with road maintenance levels 3, 4, and 5.
- Any road upgrades, as a result of designation, must be in conformance with the management objectives established in the land use plan.
- Locations for nominated public roads must fall into one of the following five categories:
 - Category 1 Roads: Congressionally designated conservation units, such as NCAs.
 - Category 2 Roads: Presidential conservation designations units such as National Monuments.
 - Category 3 Roads: Administrative conservation designations such as Back Country Byways.
 - Category 4 Roads: Recreation or conservation sites designated by a State Director in a Resource Management Plan, such as Special Recreation Management Areas.
 - Category 5 Roads: Other roads having sufficient public interest for consideration as identified by a Field Office.

In addition to these criteria, the Washington Office will rank all nominations using the attached Washington Office memorandum. We recommend that California public road nominations concentrate on roads critical for Health and Safety and Resource Protection.

The Washington Office memorandum contains the criteria, nomination format, ranking criteria, and examples. We request that each office review the attached material and prepare nominations of their public roads by no later than September 5, 2003. Questions concerning this request and nominations should be directed to either Tim Smith at (916) 978-4644 or to Paul Fulkerson at (916) 978-4439.

Signed by:
Mike Pool
State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management

1 Attachment

Instruction Memorandum No. 2003-227 – Public Road Nominations for the Reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)